

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 3, 5, 11-12, 14, 16, 20, 26 and 28 have been amended as shown on pp. 2-8 of the Reply. Claims 27 and 29-30 have been canceled. Claims 23-25 have been allowed. Claim 28 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 23-25 and 28.

Furthermore, applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the teleconference of September 5, 2007.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Objection of Claims 3, 5, 11, 14, 16, 20, 26-27 and 29-30

Claims 3, 5, 11, 14, 16, 20, 26-27 and 29-30 are objected to based on various informalities. Claims 3, 5, 11, 14, 16, 20, 26-27 and 29-30 have been amended to correct any deficiencies related to this objection, as such the objection is moot and should be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of Claims 29-30 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claims 29-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Claims 29-30 have been canceled, as such the rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

III. Rejection of Claim 28 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 28 has been amended to correct any deficiencies related to this rejection, as such, the rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

IV. **Rejection of Claims 1-22 and 27 Under 35 U.S.C. §101**

Claims 1-22 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Independent claim 1 has been amended herein to clearly illustrate that the system is embodied within a computer-readable medium and capable of execution by a computer. In particular, claim 1 as amended is directed towards a system that facilitates determining equilibrium values, ***recorded on a computer-readable medium and capable of execution by a computer***, comprising: a component that receives data and an approximation component. (Support for these amendments can be found on pg. 5, lines 20-30). Accordingly, this claim includes functional descriptive material within a computer-readable medium, and is therefore directed to statutory subject matter.

Independent claim 12 has been amended herein to include a tangible result, *i.e.*, the method transmits the calculated results to a user. Specifically, claim 12 as amended is directed towards a method for facilitating determination of equilibrium values, comprising: ...; sending results from the polynomial-time approximation method to an iterative analysis controller component to determine if the results are sufficient to halt an equilibrium modeling component; and ***outputting approximate equilibrium value data to a computer monitor display***. Thus, this claim includes a tangible result. Claim 27 has been canceled. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn with regard to claims 1-22 and 27.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [MSFTP526US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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